

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIP" at the top and "OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" at the bottom. The center of the stamp contains the date "MAR 16 2004". To the right of the stamp, the number "03" is printed. Below the stamp, the word "In" is printed.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: March 15, 2004


INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The above documents were cited in a Search Report dated January 2, 2004 for a counterpart European application and may be relevant for the reasons cited therein. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 54,334

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

